

HIGH FLIGHT HAPPENINGS

At the time of this writing, High Flight has just experienced an historic period here in our nation's capital. Let me take a moment to share with you some of our memories of these events. Every four years, the United States proudly celebrates the peaceful transfer of power within the leadership of our government, which, in a way, defines us as a people. Because of our location in Washington, D.C., and because of our mission as "America's Band," we are privileged to be participants at functions in support of these activities. High Flight, as well as the entire Air Force Band, was again a major part of the inaugural parade honoring our new president. The USAF Band provided a 99-piece marching unit for this purpose. Members of High Flight served either as marchers "in the block," escorts for the thousands of out-of-town parade participants, or alternates to these positions, training for one month to proudly represent the men and women of our Air Force to the world. It is indeed an exciting aspect of our job!

It is never easy to bid farewell, especially to those of whom we have grown very fond. Though military relationships often seem too brief, memories last forever. Because our founding fathers had the foresight to require civilian leadership to guide our armed forces, each administration brings in its own new team. High Flight would like to bid a fond farewell to outgoing Secretary of the Air Force F. Whitten Peters, who is known as the "airman's secretary." This man has worked for the Department of Defense in several capacities, and members of High Flight got to know him quite well. He remains a great supporter of The USAF Band and, when our paths crossed in the course of our work, he never hesitated to

"hang with the band!" Because of this, we were honored to be a part of his outgoing ceremonies. In January, the secretary had us perform a show at a dinner in honor of his service to the Air Force. This was the ultimate Air Force "power dinner" with a guest list including the majority of senior Air Force leadership. Our combo was also requested to perform at a reception following his farewell parade at Andrews Air Force Base. We would like to say God speed, and thanks for a job well done.

We are now in the time of year when the primary focus is on our internal customers, military audiences. We are now in full swing with troop morale initiatives such as military balls and awards banquets, and we are preparing for the upcoming 2001 community relations concerts. These "COMREL" concerts utilize the complete High Flight arsenal, presenting high-energy performances for thousands of people.

Are you aware that High Flight subdivides into several smaller performing ensembles to meet the needs of our varied customers? In the next several articles, I would like to introduce these smaller groups to you. When there is a need for more intimate entertainment, one of the groups of choice is High Flight Special. Specializing in elegant performances in small venues for cozy audiences, this four-member unit is comprised of four vocalists, two of whom double as pianist and guitarist, performing acoustically on most occasions. The official diplomatic events to which High Flight Special contributes are usually hosted by



*High Flight Special, prior to a performance at Air House.
From left: SMSgt Michael Pausic, TSgt Darden Safley,
SMSgt Paul Eschliman and MSgt Rob Henley*

senior members of the administration or the military and are in honor of foreign guests of our government.

Performing in High Flight is a unique way for our members to use their gifts to contribute to "the big picture" of America's role on the world stage. A typical High Flight evening features a solo background instrumentalist for cocktails and dinner followed by an after dinner show. Our members are always quite honored and humbled to be part of the face that America projects to the world. This is a very unique job!

On a personnel note, MSgt Rob Henley and I will return in March from the United States Air Force Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy in Montgomery, Alabama. There is no doubt in my mind that we will "hit the ground running" in preparation for whatever 2001 has in store for us. We hope to see you soon! As always, check the calendar for upcoming events, and thank you for your continued support.

—SMSgt Michael Pausic

Are you moving? If so, let us know. One of our big challenges is to keep our database current. You can help us! We will make sure your address is updated in our system, so *Cadenza* can follow you to your new home. Drop a line to:

The USAF Band/BAP
201 McChord Street
Bolling AFB, DC 20332-0202

You may also send e-mail to:

David.Nokes@bolling.af.mil

Please include both your old and new addresses. Thanks for your help!